In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 18 with the following:

--As used herein, the term "AGL27" or "AGL27 gene product" means a gene product that is characterized, in part, by having an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NOS:40 or 41. An exemplary AGL27 cDNA nucleic acid sequence is displayed as SEQ ID NO:39. An alternatively spliced AGL27 cDNA, and resulting translated product, are displayed as SEQ ID NO:49 and SEQ ID NO:50.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 4 with the following:

--As used herein, the term "characterized by early reproductive development," when used in reference to a non-naturally occurring seed plant of the invention, means a non-naturally occurring seed plant that forms reproductive structures at an earlier stage than when reproductive structures form on a corresponding naturally occurring seed plant that is grown under the same conditions and that does not ectopically express a floral meristem identity gene product. In addition, "characterized by early reproductive development" also refers to the formation of reproduction structures at an earlier stage than a plant identical except for the lack of ectopic expression of the nucleic acids of the invention (e.g., polynucleotides substantially similar to nucleic acid molecules encoding SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38 or SEQ ID NOS:40 or 41). Note that "stage," as used above, refers to either the amount of time from germination of seed or the number of leaves that a plant produces prior to initiation of reproductive structures. Similarly, "characterized by late reproductive development" or "characterized by delayed reproductive development" refers to the delayed development of reproductive structures

compared to a naturally-occurring seed plant or to a plant, natural or transgenic, that does not ectopically express a nucleic acid of the invention. The reproductive structure of an angiosperm, for example, is a flower, and the reproductive structure of a coniferous plant is a cone. For a particular naturally occurring seed plant, reproductive development occurs at a well-defined time that depends, in part, on genetic factors as well as on environmental conditions, such as day length and temperature. Thus, given a defined set of environmental condition and lacking ectopic expression of a floral meristem identity gene product, a naturally occurring seed plant will undergo reproductive development at a relatively fixed time.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 53, line 16 with the following:

--Any floral meristem identity gene product, as defined herein, is useful in a chimeric protein of the invention. Thus, a nucleic acid molecule encoding *Arabidopsis thaliana* AP1 (SEQ ID NO:2), *Brassica oleracea* AP1 (SEQ ID NO:4), *Brassica oleracea* var. *Botrytis* AP1 (SEQ ID NO:6) or *Zea mays* AP1 (SEQ ID NO:8), each of which have activity in converting shoot meristem to floral meristem, can be used to construct a nucleic acid molecule encoding a chimeric protein of the invention. Similarly, a nucleic acid molecule encoding, for example, *Arabidopsis thaliana* CAL (SEQ ID NO:10), *Brassica oleracea* CAL (SEQ ID NO:12), or a nucleic acid molecule encoding *Arabidopsis thaliana* LFY (SEQ ID NO:16) is useful when linked in frame to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a ligand binding domain to produce a nucleic acid molecule encoding a ligand-dependent chimeric protein of the invention. Similarly, nucleic acids encoding SEP1, SEP2, SEP3, AGL20, AGL22, AGL24 or AGL27 can be operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a ligand binding domain.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 60, line 16 with the following:

--The invention also provides a substantially purified nucleic acid molecule encoding a CAULIFLOWER gene product such as *Arabidopsis thaliana* CAL (SEQ ID NO:10) or *Brassica oleracea* CAL (SEQ ID NO:12). The invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding SEP1 (SEQ ID NO:28), SEP2 (SEQ ID NO:30), SEP3 (SEQ ID NO:32), AGL20 (SEQ ID NO:34), AGL22 (SEQ ID NO:36), AGL24 (SEQ ID NO:38) or AGL27 (SEQ ID NO:40 or 41).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 63, line 22 with the following:

--Such an active fragment can be produced using well known recombinant DNA methods (Sambrook et al., *supra*, 1989). Similarly, an active fragment can be, for example, an amino terminal, carboxyl terminal or internal fragment of *Arabidopsis thaliana* CAL (SEQ ID NO:10) or *Brassica oleracea* CAL (SEQ ID NO:12) that has activity, for example, in converting shoot meristem to floral meristem in an angiosperm. The product of the *BobCAL* gene (SEQ ID NO:14), which is truncated at amino acid 150, lacks activity in converting shoot meristem to floral meristem and, therefore, is an example of a polypeptide portion of a CAL floral meristem identity gene product that is not an "active fragment" of a floral meristem identity gene product.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 68, line 1 with the following:

--SEP3K, SOC1K, SVPK, AGL24K and SOC1KC/2 were generated by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) from the relevant cDNAs using oligos with the appropriate restriction site for posterior cloning into pBI771. The following primers were used (SEQ ID NOS:51-59):

SEP3-5'K: 5'-CCGTCGACCCATGAGCCAGCAGGAGTATCTC-3'

SEP3-3'Kbox: 5'-CCGCGGCCGCCTTACTCTGAAGATCGTT-3'

SOC1-5'K: 5'-CCGTCGACCCATGAAATATGAAGCAGCAAAC-3'

SOC1-3'Kbox: 5'-CCGCGGCCGCCTCCTTTTGCTTGAGCTG-3'

SOC1-C/2: 5'-CCGCGGCCGCACTTTCTTGATTCTTATT-3'

SVP-5'K: 5'-CCGTCGACCCATGAGTGATCACGCCCGAATG-3'

SVP-3'Kbox: 5'-CCGCGGCCGCTCCCTTTTTCTGAAGTTC-3'

AGL24-5'K: 5'-CCGTCGACCCATGCTTGAGAATTGTAACCTC-3'

AGL24-3'Kbox: 5'-CCGCGGCCGCCTCAAGTGAGAAAATTTG-3'

The PCR products were subcloned directly into pCRII (invitrogen) and then digested with SalI-NotI for next subcloning into pBI-771. All constructs were confirmed by sequencing.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 73, line 22 with the following:

--Construction of the 35S::SEP3 construct was as follows: cDNA was isolated by RT-PCR using the oligos OAM37: 5'-TAGAAACATCATCTTAAAAAT-3' (SEQ ID NO:60) and SEP3-5': 5'-CCGGATCCAAAATGGGAAGAGGGAGA-3' (SEQ ID NO:61). This cDNA was first cloned into pCRII (invitrogen) and then digested with BamHI for insertion into the BamHI site of pCGN18 (which contains 35S promoter) to produce sense lines, and confirmed by sequencing. The cDNA cloned into pCRII was digested with BamHI and BglII, the 363bp band corresponding to the 5' end of the cDNA was cloned in antisense orientation into the BamHI site of pBIN-JIT (plasmid carrying two 35S promoters in tandem). The 35S::SEP3 sense and antisense constructs were introduced into *Arabidopsis*, ecotype *Columbia*, by vacuum infiltration (Bechtold *et al.*, *C. R. Acad. Sci.* 316, 1194-1199 (1993)) and transgenic plants were selected on Kanamycin plates.--

Please cancel the present "SEQUENCE LISTING", pages 76-128, and insert therefor the accompanying paper copy of the Sequence Listing, page numbers 1 to 55, at the end of